

April 2007

The Warrior

Powerful poet conquers new fans at UAS Spring Forum

By: Mary Jensen

Robert Bly, a guest speaker for the University of Alaska Southeast 2007 Spring Forum, encouraged us to think critically for ourselves. He showed us how to do so by reading translated worldwide poetry from ancient to modern times and then finding meaning in it for himself. The meanings he found were personal but educated because he looked past his own emotions and into the heart and thoughts of poets with a knowledge of their cultural history. He showed us through the preservation of the individual, languages, history, arts and the freedom to use them, humanity will remain inspired. His selections of translated poetry opened our hearts to goals higher than greed. Unfortunately, not everyone agrees that individuals and the arts count. These forces will seek to destroy civilization.

My interpretation of what Bly was telling us is this: there will always be oppressors of freedom and thus there will always be a need for those who will fight for freedom; World War II is one such example. Since the twentieth century, humans have encountered so many new feelings and ideas that oppressions have taken on new flavors, but the concept of corrupt power remains the same. One current oppressor is the struggle between Capitalism and Democracy.

Capitalism assumes that the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few can result in benefit to everyone as they employ their wealth to produce goods and services that others purchase. The idea implies anyone who collects financial resources and puts them to work can benefit both themselves and others. Its vulnerability shows up when wealth is over concentrated in the hands of a privileged few who then have the ability to manipulate or oppress others. Wealth can skew the values of a nation although, I must admit I would not choose to live in a poor one.

Democracy is concerned with broadly sharing the power to guide the form and policy of government typically through the extension of the vote. I think democracy is great, but its vulnerability is mob rule. When the Greeks started off with democracy, they found, as we do now, that the people can become a mob and be swayed to actions not in their best interest, such as war. These two struggle against each other, in a sense, as capitalism enhances wealth and democracy enhances the sharing of power.

When the two vulnerabilities of a few manipulating the wealth of a nation and a mob that has been led to war collide, civilization and its arts decline. In order for the capitalists to continue gaining, they must control us through a mass hypnosis of stupidity through stereotyping, advertising, television and the war on drugs. Hypnotized, we will work for and purchase what they want to sell us despite the impact on the environment or civilization. Democracy gone wrong has its interests in keeping us in the same state of existence so that leaders can control votes to suit their own capitalistic desires and worldview. Both of these detract from individual expression if misused.

Bly and many others, including professors at U.A.S., struggle to maintain the individual and the arts. Bly did us as favor with his bravery in showing us how to perceive poetry and the worth of protecting all of the arts. Bly paves the way for all of us by putting his inner and outer life in the public eye, unafraid; Bly is the true warrior.

Student Research Project to Benefit Alaskan Entrepreneurs

Students in the School of Management's New Business Ventures class provide resources for Alaskan small businesses...

By: Steve Hamilton

Student Research Project to Benefit Alaskan Entrepreneurs

Students in the UAS School of Management class New Business Ventures (BA-485) undertook a class project during the spring 2007 semester that will benefit entrepreneurs across the state.

The class worked collaboratively to identify all of the relevant business assistance resources in Alaska, including national resources that are relevant to Alaskan businesses. The information on these resources have been organized into a single, easy to use index that can help direct entrepreneurs to appropriate websites and offices to get the help that they need.



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Assistance for new business owners and prospective business owners exists in abundance. The difficulty is that these various resources exist in many different places and in many different forms. Even searching through popular search engines such as Google returns so many results that it is hard for entrepreneurs to sort through it all.

BA-485 students used the first half of the spring semester to identify relevant sources of assistance. The second half of the project was to organize and publish the data in a form that owners will find easy to use.

The long term vision for this project is that it will be updated at least annually as a part of a class project. In the future, the information will be published on the web and will also be provided as content to organizations that provide small business assistance.

The small business resource project was just one of four projects taken on by business students at UAS this semester. The other three included a project to help sell more apparel at the UAS bookstore, a project to get Alaskans to pledge to change from incandescent light bulbs to cost efficient and more energy efficient compact florescent (CFL) bulbs and a project to establish a network of graduating UAS business students.

Along with the other three, this project was presented in April at the annual Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) competition in Seattle, Washington by a team of UAS business students - Barbara Miramontes, Elizabeth Stickel, Karen Huntsman, and Toby Harbanuk. The UAS chapter of SIFE was organized and is co-advised by UAS School of Management faculty members Rick Wolk and Steve Hamilton.

No teacher left behind

New UAS Graduate program helps teachers expand special education courses

By: David McKenna

A new graduate level Masters in Special Education program will offer its first classes at UAS this summer. UAS Special Education Program Director Dr. Thomas Duke said “Alaska faces a severe and chronic shortage of certified special education teachers”. Designed to meet this growing need for Special Education teachers in all of Alaska, the program will be offered to both local and distance students. UAS currently offers a graduate certificate in special education which results in an Endorsement in Special Education from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. The new masters program allows students who complete this program to continue on and earn a Master of Education in Special Education.

The masters program consists of three additional 3-credit courses beyond the graduate certificate” said Duke. Both programs are designed to meet the needs of working teachers, paraprofessionals, and other school-based personnel. All courses are offered in the evenings during the fall and spring semesters, and three 3-credit courses are offered each summer. Students enrolled in the certificate program have seven years to complete the requirements, though most complete it in far less time. “The graduate certificate program is 27 credits, and can be completed in 12 months” said Duke. “The masters program is 36 credits and can be completed in 18 months”.

Efforts to increase the number of special education teachers in the state are already underway. According to Duke, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development “grants emergency waivers to certified teachers who have already completed nine credits in special education”. Under these conditions, the teachers can hold special education positions while they complete the requirements for the certificate.

While many students in the existing certificate program are practicing teachers, some are also enrolled in teacher certification programs. UAS Master of Arts in Teaching students are welcome to take special education courses concurrently, as are students in the undergraduate education programs. Duke cautioned that the one-year M.A.T. program is very intensive, and completing the certificate in special education at the same time is unrealistic. “Many M.A.T. graduates take three 3-credit courses in the same summer that they graduate from the M.A.T. program. They are then hired by the Juneau or other school districts as full-time special education teachers.”

Upcoming course syllabi (including textbooks) will be posted to UAS Online in late April or early May. Anyone interested in either the certificate or masters level program is encouraged to contact Linda Smith at: Linda.smith@uas.alaska.edu.

Do you want to earn \$20 for writing a Whalesong Article?

We need writers!

The Whalesong student newspaper needs writers to contribute stories on current events, entertainment, sports, and opinion columns. We will give you a \$20 gift certificate per article that is approved by the editor for publication. Gift certificates are good for the redemption of \$20 worth of goods or services at local retailers like Fred Meyer, Southeast Waffle Company, and Bullwinkle's Pizza. There is no limit to how many articles you may write in a semester. For more information please contact the editor Laura Lemire at riverdog18@aol.com.

UAS Environmental Club

Make UAS greener, meet like-minded people, make a difference to turn the tides at UAS and beyond.

The UAS Environmental Club is a new student club. Please join our first meeting Friday, Feb. 16 at 3:15 PM in Room HB 110. We are a branch of Turning The Tides, a group of Juneau locals concerned with the health of the ocean and all its living connections including you. Please contact Cachet Garrett at jsctg@uas.alaska.edu or Hildegard Regele at jfhcr@uas.alaska.edu.

North side Freddyborough P.S.A

A guide to shopping in the new and improved Juneau Fred Meyer

By: Andrew Hall

Entering the north side of Freddyborough, white lights and orderly arrangements of Organic Tarragon resemble the recent effort by the Isle-Owners Association (I.O.A.) to “clean up the neighborhood.” As co-chairwomen of the I.O.A, it is to my delight that Low-end FMV Colombian bulk has been replaced with a more presentable “Venti Café Colombiano” and that the aisles and alleys have undergone a glossy, high-grade linoleum makeover. It is needless to say that since all legitimate financial transactions are now made on the north side, (the registers have been moved from the suburbs) anyone with an ounce of street smarts and a pinch of style pays in the safe section of Freddyborough.

If your shopping needs require that you travel across town into the suburbs for electronics or apparel, you must travel through the unaesthetic industrial area. Keep your wits about you and please ignore the construction as affordable shopping units are underway for prospective middle income families. Another eyesore in the middleclass area of Freddyborough are the aisle signs that are not necessarily up to I.O.A standards, not to mention the seasonal aisles of tackily designed merchandise. Currently in place is a horribly distasteful display of Valentines Day apparel. Please ignore this.

If you’re looking for a spacious area for the kids to play and you don’t want to jeopardize your safety and stylistic reputation in Freddyborough, head over to the electronic department. You can have your children’s friends whining with envy over a new Ipod or perhaps impress your friends with the full televised collection of Agatha Christie’s Poirot.

Most importantly if you are with children, I urge you to not travel south of apparel as economic disparity ravaged that end of town. The slick linoleum has been uprooted and given way to the cold dusty remains of historic Freddyborough. Yes, this is the original area where the simple virtues of our grandparents, such as home storage and fishing gear, once created the fabric of Freddyborough, but suburban sprawl has left it up to it’s eyelids in tackiness and poverty. If you need bed linens or need to go to the powder room, passing through the south side is necessary. One must keep in mind, the margarita kits and quesadilla makers sold in this side of town aren’t any different from check-cashing agencies or 99 cent stores. These are scams and should be avoided all costs. If you must purchase anything here avoid eye contact, especially so with anyone from the north side.

I am pleased to say as co-chairwomen of the I.O.A that efforts are being made to expel distasteful merchandise from the south side and that by April of 2007, Organic Home & Garden will replace the now embarrassing displays that were once the foundation of our now blooming community.

Whalesong Poetry Pool

Fishing Days and Long Journey to Juneau

By: Roman Sorokin

#1 Fishing Days

First crack of dawn,
warm golden sunrays slowly
lift a thick layer of fog and
gently push it out of the bay.

I sit at the boat and watch as
a long column of cars
crosses the bridge,
like a slow weaving snake,
and slithers into the harbor.

Dozens of people rush to the dock
carrying totes full of ice, fish bellies and beer.
I check the worn engine,
turn the ignition key
the silver propellers whirr.

My old, grumpy captain is finally here
dressed in his favorite coffee-stained shirt.
I slip on my slick, stinky orange gloves
look up and see downy, white curls
dreamily hovering across the blue sky
and pray for the seas to be smooth.

#3 Long Journey to Juneau

Jesus was with me
in the dark,
stuffy lounge
of a slow ferry
headed for Juneau.

I sat in a spot
by a window
comforted by the warmth
radiating down
from a mandarin-colored lamp.

I took my shoes off,
stretched my legs out,
and let the soft seat
slowly absorb
my tired, jellied body.

I closed my eyes,
took a deep breath
and as I got comfy,
Drunken Man stumbled in,
slowly undressed,
rolled out his sleeping bag
on the floor next to me
and buried his wrinkly,
grubby face in a pillow.

Heady breathing,
worn dirty clothes,
old musty shoes
soon filled the air with an
awful, eye-burning odor.

Moments later,
cries of bored children
were followed by

the roaring of parents.

The loud, crackling sound
of large TV speakers
broke the short silence
soon after.

Surrounded and helpless,
I reached under my shirt
for a small,
golden necklace with a cross.

Jesus was with me
in a dark,
crowded lounge
on the slow ferry
headed for Juneau.

Back to the Time of Radio

Older films hold new surprises for those who are willing to dust off the shelves of their local video store

By: Drew McConnell

The most memorable moments of a filmmaker's body of work are often in the most unlikely of places. This is the case of Woody Allen's 1987 film, "Radio Days."

Although "Radio Days" has been dwarfed in notoriety by Woody Allen's more critically acclaimed films, it is no less effective artistically. The film takes place in 1943, a time before television had overtaken radio in popularity. Centered upon a middle-class family in Rockaway Beach New York, the film offers a series of stories interweaved with the music of the day. The stories are told from Allen's childhood point of view.

Joe, who is played by Seth Green, is a young boy who loves the Masked Avenger. His aunt Bea is desperate to find a husband before it's too late, Joe's parents argue notoriously and his neighbors are communists. The movie also tells the story of Sally White, who starred in Joe's mother's favorite radio show before having a string of bad luck.

The opening scene is a humorous robbery of an empty house at night, which is interrupted by the ring of the telephone. When the burglars decide to answer, the call turns out being the host of the famous radio show "Guess That Tune." The burglars play along and actually win the grand prize, only to never be able to claim it.

Some of the most notable radio shows, historical events and films of the era serve as the base of many of the scenes. The national hysteria that was caused by Orson Welles' "The War of the Worlds" provides a humorous scene with Bea and one of her dates. Allen describes his first experience at Radio City Music Hall, saying in voiceover that he felt like he had "just walked into heaven" when he went there to see "The Philadelphia Story." Joe also has a vision of a Nazi submarine after hearing a news broadcast advising citizens to keep an eye out for them. These scenes develop the characters very little, but they paint a vivid picture.

Woody Allen's style as a storyteller has always been old-fashioned, as shown in "Broadway Danny Rose," "Shadows and Fog," and "The Purple Rose of Cairo." Yet more than any of his other films, "Radio Days" has a nostalgic power that is repressed and then released sporadically throughout the film. Very few directors have been able to convey nostalgic feelings so passionately without seeming to beg for pity. Allen asks for no pity, nor does he force his passion onto the audience. He simply recognizes the days of the radio as a human entity, which simultaneously reflected on his own existence.

"Radio Days" is a wonderful example of Woody Allen's greatness as a filmmaker, and is a dreamland for any radio lover. Although the depth of the characters and their development fails to compare with "Annie Hall," "Manhattan or Hannah," and "Her Sisters, Radio Days" still proves to be one of Woody Allen's best films.